REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed August 6, 2008, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application, each of the rejections set forth in the Office Action has been carefully considered and is addressed below. The claims as presented are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1–41 were previously pending in this application. No claims are amended, added or canceled. As a result, claims 1–41 remain pending for examination with claims 1, 4, 13, 16, 25 and 27 being independent. No new matter has been added.

Telephone Interview with Examiner

Applicant's representatives thank Examiner Swearingen for the courtesies extended in granting and conducting a telephone interview on October 2, 2008. The substance of the interview is summarized herein.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1–41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,272,470 to Teshima ("Teshima") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,915,265 to Johnson ("Johnson"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, as each independent claim patentably distinguishes over any combination of the asserted references.

A.   Brief Overview of Embodiments of the Invention

During the interview, Applicant's representatives provided an overview of embodiments of the invention, which relate generally to performing context management (see Applicant's specification at, e.g., p.5, lines 6-7). By way of background, it was explained that in some settings, multiple software applications may access data relating to common entities, or "subjects" (p. 1, lines 9–10). For example, in the healthcare field, multiple applications may be used to access data

relating to a particular patient (p. 1, lines 10–12). For example, a user may employ one application to access clinical data (e.g., x-ray images or blood work results) and another to access financial data (e.g., insurance coverage or billing history) (p. 1, lines 12–14).

Data describing a given subject (in the example given above, a patient) that is accessed by multiple applications is referred to in Applicant's specification as a "context" defined by the subject (p. 1, lines 22–23). Although patient data is an illustrative example, other data may define a subject as well, such as data relating to a clinical encounter, provider, observation, insurer, user (e.g., to enable "single sign-on" capabilities for the multiple applications) and/or other data (p. 1, lines 15-19). In addition, shared subjects may be used in fields other than healthcare (p. 1, lines 15-21).

Before the advent of context management systems, a user employing multiple applications to access data on a particular subject was required to repeat the entry of information describing the subject to each application (p. 1, lines 14–15). When a context management system is employed, and multiple applications share a context defined by a subject, when a user switches the context by changing the data for the subject (e.g., by switching from one patient to another within one of the applications), all of the applications may switch to display the new data for the subject (e.g., by retrieving and displaying the new patient's data) (p. 3, line 25 – p. 4, line 26).

Certain aspects of the present invention relate to performing context management in a networked environment (p. 12, lines 7–10). For example, one embodiment of the invention relates specifically to emulated applications, wherein an application executes on a remote application server and is emulated (e.g., via the Citrix MetaFrame and ICA architecture) on a client device (p. 13, lines 8–10). In this respect, Applicant has recognized that when the applications that may share a context include a remote application and a desktop application, it may be desirable to verify that the remote application and the desktop application are associated with the same client (i.e., that the remote application is emulated on the client on which the desktop application executes), to prevent a "rogue" application executing remotely from the desktop from intruding into the context (p. 25, lines 15–20). Accordingly, one embodiment of the invention provides a method for verifying that a remote application is emulated on the same client on which at least one desktop application executes,

so that it may share a context with the desktop application(s) (p. 25, lines 20-22). In one implementation, first information (e.g., a first identifier) is received from the client, second information (e.g., a second identifier) is received from the remote application server that identifies the client on which the remote application is emulated, and the information (e.g., the first and second identifiers) is compared to determine whether the remote application is emulated on the client on which the desktop application(s) execute(s) (p. 25, lines 22–25).

Another embodiment may be employed in system configurations in which a client emulates multiple remote applications executing on different remote application servers, to verify that remote applications executing on different remote application servers are emulated on the same client and can share a context (p. 29, lines 9–12). In one exemplary implementation, first information (e.g., a first identifier) is received from a first remote application server which identifies the client on which a first remote application is emulated, second information (e.g., a second identifier) is received from a second remote application server which identifies the client on which a second remote application is emulated, and the information is examined to determine whether the first and second remote applications are emulated on the same client and may share a context (p. 29, lines 13–16).

The foregoing overview is provided to assist the Examiner in appreciating some aspects of the invention. However, this overview may not apply to each independent claim, and the language of each independent claim may differ in material respects from the overview above. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that careful consideration be given to the language of each independent claim, and that each be addressed on its own merits, without relying on the overview provided above. In this respect, Applicant does not rely on the overview above to distinguish any of the claims over the prior art, but rather relies only upon the language of the claims and the arguments presented below.

B.   Rejection of Independent Claims 1, 4, 13, 16, 25 and 27

Each of independent claims 1, 4, 13, 16, 25 and 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly being obvious over Teshima in view of Johnson. Each of independent claims 1, 13

and 25 includes limitations directed to verifying that at least one remote application is emulated on a first client which executes at least one client application, and may belong to a context with the at least one client application. Each of independent claims 4, 16 and 27 includes limitations directed to verifying that first and second remote applications are emulated on a same client, and may belong to a same context.

Initially, Applicant respectfully points out that the Office Action fails to indicate how all of the limitations recited by each independent claim are believed to be satisfied by the prior art of record, as required under MPEP §706.02(j). For example, the Office Action fails to indicate how Teshima or Johnson are believed to satisfy the limitations recited by claims 1, 13 and 25 directed to determining that at least one remote application is emulated on a first client on which at least one client application executes and may belong to a context when first information matches second information, and if it is determined that the at least one remote application is emulated on the first client, allowing the at least one remote application and the at least one client application to belong to the context. Similarly, the Office Action fails to indicate how Teshima or Johnson are believed to satisfy the limitations of claims 4, 16 and 27 directed to determining that first and second remote applications are emulated on a same client and may belong to a same context by examining first information and second information, and if it is determined that the first and second remote applications are emulated on the same client, allowing the first and second remote applications to belong to the same context. For at least this reason, the rejection of each independent claim is improper.

Moreover, as pointed out during the interview, neither reference says anything at all relating to context management or emulated applications, let alone verifying that an emulated application may belong to a context, as required by each independent claim. Teshima and Johnson each disclose a "smart card" given to a patient which may be used to access data on the patient stored at geographically dispersed locations (see, e.g., col. 3, lines 27–52 of Teshima and col. 2, lines 38–67 of Johnson), and do not relate at all to context management.

The Examiner indicated an appreciation for this point, but questioned whether the claim limitations directed to verifying that an emulated application may belong to a context should be

lent patentable weight, as they are recited in the preamble of each independent claim. Applicant's representatives pointed out that limitations in the preamble provide antecedent basis for the limitations recited in the body of each independent claim, and thus must be lent patentable weight. The Examiner agreed, and while he stated that he would reserve final judgment until after studying the matter further, he indicated he would likely withdraw the rejection, and perhaps perform a new search.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of independent claims 1, 4, 13, 16, 25 and 27, and of the claims that depend respectively therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly being obvious over Teshima in view of Johnson be withdrawn.
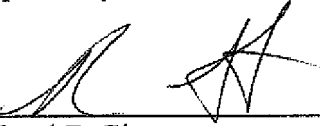
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith to our Deposit Account No. 23/2825, under Docket No. S1039.70015US00.

Dated: October 6, 2008   Respectfully submitted,

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